

Abstract

5 A method is presented for rapidly making and delivering directly to a consumer a full
upper and/or lower denture on the basis of contemporaneous digital image information laser
scanned from the person's oral cavity after all respective upper and/or lower teeth have been
removed, the delivery of the denture occurring substantially contemporaneously with the
creation of the contemporaneous digital image information and optionally including and based
10 on archived digital image information laser scanned from the person's oral cavity before all
respective upper and/or lower teeth have been removed and digitally stored. According to which
this contemporaneous digital image information and archival digital image information of the
oral cavity is converted, by means of what is called the rapid prototyping technique and thus with
a processing step (20) and a combination of an optional laser scanning step (18) solely for
archiving the oral cavity when upper and/or lower teeth are present and a repetition of the laser
15 scanning step (18) at a subsequent time when upper and/or lower teeth have been removed, a
pre-selected block of plastic is used in a processing step (26) at a remote rapid modeling facility
for receiving and processing digital information to form the block of plastic or like material into
a denture of which at least a part is formed to substantially perfectly fit in juxtaposed relationship
to the corresponding gums of the consumer. At least, pre-selected outer or non-juxtaposing is
20 selected for manufacture of the denture using an arbitrary archived digital image not derived
from the consumer's oral cavity image but selected by the consumer for its style, cosmetic
characteristics, for example, color of teeth, size and variety of teeth, and/or perceived suitability.

25